

GRAVEDIGGER HITS AT PIG WOMAN; TOLD TO KEEP MUM ON MURDER

Hall Defense Seeks To Discredit Star Witness for State

By LEO J. CASEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Sept. 27.—In an investigation delving into every act in the life of Mrs. Jane Gibson, "the pig woman" of the Hall-Mills case, the defense is seeking to unearth evidence to show that the state's most important witness had motives which caused her to name as guilty others than the actual killers.

This was learned by The GRAPHIC from a person close to counsel for the four accused at the same time that Sigourney Smith, a gravedigger living near the scene of the crime, told reporters of a mysterious visit paid to him by Mrs. Gibson shortly after the murders.

Woman Saw Murder

Mrs. Gibson is the only person named by the state as having been an eyewitness to the slayings on the old Phillips farm, September 14, 1922. She has ever insisted that she saw Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, Willie Stevens, her eccentric brother, and Henry de la B. Cander at the scene of the crime. She heard four shots, she said, and a woman's scream, and saw Mrs. Hall kneeling on the ground weeping.

For the murders of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, his choir singer, the three persons named by Mrs. Gibson have been indicted as well as Henry Stevens, brother of Mrs. Hall and Willie.

Smith, the gravedigger, now declares that Mrs. Gibson revisited DeRussey's lane, which leads to the Phillips farm, within twenty-four hours after the double tragedy. She visited Smith at the home of Mrs. A. C. Fraley, which overlooks the lane.

"On Friday night, September 15, 1922," the gravedigger said, "I heard a tapping about 9 o'clock on the kitchen window. I saw a face wrapped in a shawl and recognized Mrs. Gibson. She seemed afraid some one might see her."

"I opened a window and said, 'What do you want?'

Warned to Keep Silent

"I want to warn you," she said. "Don't say anything about what happened last night. I want to warn you so you can keep out of trouble."

"Then she told me more, and before leaving she repeated her warning, 'Don't say anything about what happened last night and don't tell anybody I've been here.'

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6th 'Cry Baby' Gets 15 to 30 Years

When James J. O'Connor, the sixth member of the so-called "cry baby" gang of hold-up men convicted on a robbery charge in Queens, appeared in County Court, Long Island City, today, Judge Frank F. Adel expressed sympathy for the youth, with whom, he said, he would show "judicial leniency" in imposing sentence.

O'Connor was then sentenced to from fifteen to thirty years in Sing Sing prison. He staggered, and a detective had to support him.

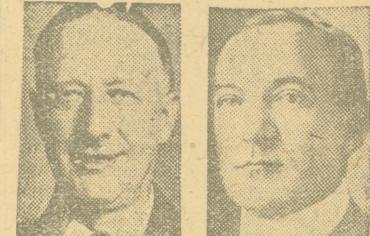
O'Connor lived at 759 10th Ave., Manhattan. He testified for the state at the "cry baby" bandits' trial.

Rival State Conventions Open; Smith in Control at Syracuse Mills Sounds G. O. P. Keynote

Democrats to O. K. Governor's Ticket In Lifeless Meeting

DEMOCRATIC SLATE FORECAST
U. S. Senator—Robert F. Wagner.
Governor—Alfred E. Smith.
Lieut. Governor—Edwin Corning.
Attorney General—Benjamin Stoltz.
Controller—Morris S. Tremaine.

Special Dispatch to The GRAPHIC
CONVENTION HALL,
SYRACUSE, Sept. 27 (By U. P.)—The Democratic state convention was called to order



Gov. A. E. Smith Robert F. Wagner

at 12:07 p. m. today to nominate a state ticket and draw up the platform for the coming state campaign.

Convention Hall, big, barn-like structure, was cold, and a mass of punting and American flags with a band playing jazz music failed to warm up the atmosphere.

The few spectators and delegates seemed lost in a space large enough for 5,000.

Delegates trooped in extremely slow during the first half hour.

Nothing to Do

One of the delegates said he could see no reason for attending the "show" anyway, as there is nothing to do except ratify the proceedings of the conference held at the executive mansion in Albany two weeks ago.

Following his custom, the governor did not appear at the hall and would not, it was officially announced.

Vinton Washington

The enthusiastic crowd that gathered in Syracuse today has visions of all the advantages that come with success at the polls in a state election. But also they see ahead



G. W. Olvany Mayor Walker
the glimmer of Washington, and not a few of them hope to follow their leader to the national capital.

That, too, was apparent—man after man and woman after woman admitted willingness to yield everything to his judgment in platform, ticket and campaign plans.

The party statement of policies which is being drafted today will stress the governor's record as chief executive, and paint a picture of him as New York's most capable

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Busy Convention Day Looms for Parties, Schedules Show

The Democratic State Convention meets today at 10 a. m. at Syracuse. After drafting a tentative schedule, they will adjourn until tonight when Franklin D. Roosevelt will deliver the keynote address.

The Republicans will convene today at 11 a. m. at Madison Square Garden with State Chairman George K. Morris presiding. Ogden L. Mills will deliver the keynote address after the convention is called to order. In the evening, a platform will be discussed.

'Law Enforcement' Is G. O. P. Keynote Sounded by Mills

Representative Ogden L. Mills, who probably will be the Republican nominee for governor of New York state, today read the keynote address at that party's state convention.

On the subject of prohibition, which for a time threatened an open split in the party, Mills declared for enforcement of law as a requisite of orderly government, and pledged his party to the result of the forthcoming state referendum. He said:

Power to States

"The proposed solution is based on the theory that the Federal government alone cannot make enforcement effective, and that true participation by the states implies that they should be given some discretion in the writing of their enforcement status.

"If the (referendum) proposal is beaten at the polls the majority will have declared themselves to be satisfied with the Eighteenth Amendment as interpreted and enforced by the Volstead act. This would be a clear mandate to the party in power to enact a state enforcement law.

"If, on the other hand, the proposal carries the people of the state will have uttered a definite protest against existing conditions. In this event it will be the duty of our elected officials . . . to present the views of the people to the national government, and, if possible, to persuade them to accept our solution."

"The voice of the million people will be heard and listened to with respectful attention."

Attacks Smith

Miss directed a great part of his address against the reorganization of the state government as conducted by Gov. "Al" Smith.

"Tammany success this year," said Mills, "means that the strongest, most ruthless, and at times most sinister of political machines will have the spending of two billions of public funds.

"And on top of all this the next governor is to reorganize completely the state government. Is it any wonder that the governor must run again in an endeavor to win the greatest stakes they or any other political organization ever played for?"

4 Mothers Drown, One With Babe

POMEROY, O., Sept. 27 (By U. P.)—Four mothers of large families, one of them with a baby in her arms, drowned in the Ohio River at Mason, W. Va., early today.

The dead are: Mrs. A. E. Foulk, 50; Mrs. John Maier, 52; Mrs. Robert Hammell, 38; Mrs. Will Sponagle, 42, and Mrs. Sponagle's 7-month-old baby.

With a large party of Pomeroy residents, the victims had returned from a week-end excursion to Pittsburgh. The skiff they boarded at Mason to cross the river was carried by swift current under a ferryboat tied to the pier.

altar by being nominated as the Republican candidate for governor by the state convention that convened in Madison Square Garden today, it was declared by leaders as they gathered in this new stadium, which will later probably feature Gene Tunney, the fighting marine, and other notables.

State Chairman George K. Morris, attired in "claw-hammer" coat

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Republicans Ready To Sacrifice Victim In Futile Campaign

G. O. P. SLATE FORECAST
U. S. Senator—J. W. Wadsworth, Jr.
Governor—Ogden L. Mills
Lieut. Governor—Seymour Lowman
Controller—Vincent B. Murphy
Attorney General—Albert Ottinger.

By JOSEPH L. COHN
Congressman Ogden L. Mills, wet representative from the "silk stocking dis-



Ogden L. Mills J. W. Wadsworth

tract," will be offered as a sacrifice at the political Al Smith

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